

REMARKS

Claims 1-16 are the claims currently pending in the Application.

Claims 1-4, 14 and 15 are amended to clarify features recited thereby. These amendments introduce no impermissible new matter.

The amendment of claim 1 is fully supported by the Specification, see for example: a) page 10, lines 18-21; b) page 13, lines 22-23; c) page 13, lines 24-25 and page 14, lines 1-2; d) page 4, lines 3-10, for six cases mentioned in c).

Formal Matters

Applicant thanks the Examiner for acknowledging (in the Advisory Action mailed February 8, 2005) the claim for foreign priority and the receipt of the priority document.

Rejection of Claim 1 under 35 U.S.C. § 112

Claim 1 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite. This rejection is traversed.

Applicant respectfully submits that a person of ordinary skill would have readily understood the meaning of claim 1, and the Examiner's ground for rejection amounts at most to ground for an objection. Accordingly, no amendment is required as a matter of applicable law or regulation.

However, in the interest of expediting the prosecution of the present Application, claim 1 is hereby amended. Therefore, this rejection should now be withdrawn.

Rejection of Claims 1-16 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e)

Claims 1-16 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by Watson et al (U.S. 6,631,409). This rejection is traversed.

Among the problems recognized and solved by Applicant's claimed invention is that of dynamically making known what contents are available on the networked client devices, even when the connection state of a client device changes. According to an aspect of the present invention, the contents database retains accessibility information for each content file, such that the accessibility information for each content file is updated when connection state information and the contents modification information is received. For example, according to an aspect of Applicant's claimed invention, the accessibility of a content data file stored in apparatuses connected to the network is controlled in accordance with the status of the apparatuses (for example, power on/off, connection state to the network).

For at least the following reasons, Applicant's claimed invention is neither anticipated by nor obvious from the cited reference. By way of example, independent claim 1 requires retaining accessibility information for each content file, the accessibility information for each content file being updated upon receipt of the connection state information and the contents modification information.

Watson discloses monitoring a communications test system in which a monitor machine server 302 (MoM server) monitors client devices connected to the communications network (Watson, Abstract; column 3, line 35-column 4, line 10), such that the monitor machine server 303 obtains information, including registry information from the Windows 95 operating system from various objects in the communications

network (Watson, column 4, lines 48-64). Watson discloses that status information for status variables are communicated between the monitor machine and server 302 and network elements, and that the status variables include information such as vital signs data used to determine whether an object is functioning correctly (Watson, column 4, line 66-column 5, line 4); and that the monitor machine client has access to monitor machine server, including read-only access (Watson, column 5, lines 7-9).

The Examiner does not specify any section in the cited references that discloses or suggests the following features of claim 1 of the present invention: "reporting the accessibility of content."

The Examiner cited Watson's col. 3, lines 60-67, col. 4 lines 1-5, 55-67, col. 5 lines 1-10 and col. 6, lines 30-55, and indicated them to be the same as the art disclosed by the present invention, however, Watson does not disclose or suggest monitoring "content file data stored in the apparatuses connected to the network," as *inter alia*, required by independent claim 1. As discussed, Watson is directed to monitoring registry information and status information, including vital signs data for machines connected to the network. Watson does not disclose or suggest monitoring content file data stored in apparatuses connected to the network.

Further, since Watson does not disclose or suggest this feature, Watson is incapable of disclosing or suggesting retaining accessibility information for each content file, the accessibility information for each content file being updated upon receipt of the connection state information and the contents modification information, as further required by independent claim 1. That is, Watson does not disclose or suggest retaining

any kind of information in response to a change in connection state of a client device. Therefore, Watson does not disclose or suggest the recitations of independent claim 1.

Claims 2-16 depend from independent claim 1 and thus incorporate novel and nonobvious features thereof. Accordingly, claims 2-16 are patentably distinguishable over the prior art for at least the reasons that independent claim one is patentably distinguishable over the prior art. Therefore, this rejection should now be withdrawn.

Rejection of Claims 1 and 14-16 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b)

Claims 1 and 14-16 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) are being anticipated by Sims et al (U.S. Patent Number 5, 434, 775). This rejection is traversed.

Independent claim 1 requires retaining accessibility information for each content file, the accessibility information for each content file being updated upon receipt of the connection state information and the contents modification information.

Sims discloses maintaining a device inventory system for tracking small devices used in hospitals (Sims, Abstract), using ID tags given to the devices. Sims enables determination of the locations (for example, the room) of each device. Sims discloses storing up-to-date information about the location and condition of each device, as well as the date and time of the most recent network event of that device and of the type of the events (connected or disconnect).

The Examiner cited Sims and stated, "Sims discloses an activity database that generates reports for users." However, the corresponding section in Sims does not mention reporting the accessibility of content.

That is, Sims does not disclose or suggest retaining accessibility information for each content file, as *inter alia*, required by independent claim 1. As discussed, Sims is directed to keeping track of the connection state of devices and their related network events. Sims does not disclose or suggest monitoring content file data stored in apparatuses.

Since Sims does not disclose or suggest this feature, Sims is incapable of disclosing or suggesting that accessibility information for each content file is updated upon receipt of the connection state information and the contents modification information, as further required by independent claim 1. Therefore, Sims does not disclose or suggest the recitations of independent claim 1.

Claims 14-16 depend from independent claim 1, and thus incorporate novel and nonobvious features thereof. Accordingly, claims 14-16 are patentably distinguishable over the prior art for at least the reasons that independent claim 1 is patentably distinguishable over the prior art. Therefore, this rejection should now be withdrawn.

Rejection of Claim 1 under 35 U.S.C. § 103

Claim 1 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being obvious from Williams et al (U.S. Patent Number 6,415,289). This rejection is traversed.

Williams discloses a network information control method utilizing a common command format and a centralized storage management system in which information about content information stored on the network is indexed and stored in a database server (Williams, Abstract).

Williams does not disclose or suggest retaining accessibility information for each content file, the accessibility information for each content file being updated upon receipt of the connection state information and the contents modification information.

The Examiner cites Williams, column 6, lines 20-36, where Williams discloses, in relevant part, that the server maintains identifying information about information stored on the network including name, location, data type, access rights, accesses, originator, and other information, and that the index information maintained by the server may include the information location, type, source, rating, and the date and time the information was stored.

Williams does not disclose or suggest retaining accessibility information for each content file, the accessibility information for each content file being updated upon receipt of the connection state information and the contents modification information, as *inter alia*, required by independent claim 1. That is, Williams does not disclose or suggest monitoring the connection state of client devices whose content files are being tracked.

Hasegawa does not cure the deficiencies of Williams as they relate to independent claim 1. Hasegawa discloses a network interconnection device for connecting two types of networks with different protocols (Hasegawa, Abstract), and a network interconnection device interconnecting the two networks that determines whether other interconnection devices are ready to participate in communication. Therefore, this rejection should now be withdrawn.

Rejection of Claims 3, 4, 5-8 and 9-12 under 35 U.S.C. § 103

Claims 3, 4, 5-8 and 9-12 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103 as being obvious from Williams and Hasegawa in view of Takahashi et al., U.S. Patent Publication No. 2002/0035620. This rejection is traversed.

As discussed, Williams and Hasegawa do not disclose or suggest the above-cited features of independent claim 1. Takahashi does not cure these deficiencies. Therefore, this rejection should now be withdrawn.

Rejection of Claims 3, 4, 5-8 and 9-12 under 35 U.S.C. § 103

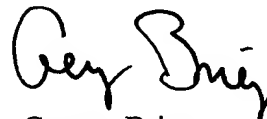
Claim 13 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103 as being obvious from Williams, Hasegawa and Takahashi in view of the Official Notice taken by the Examiner. This rejection is traversed.

The Official Notice taken by the Examiner, even if it were proper, does not cure the deficiencies of the cited references as they relate to the above-discussed features of independent claim 1 of Applicant's invention. Therefore, this rejection should now be withdrawn.

For at least the reasons set forth in the foregoing discussion, Applicant believes that the Application is now allowable, and respectfully requests that the Examiner reconsider the rejections and allow the Application.

Should the Examiner have any questions regarding this Amendment or the Application generally, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned attorney.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "George Brieger". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "George" and last name "Brieger" clearly distinguishable.

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